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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/799,362	03/12/2004	Jeffrey M. Harrington	GRTSTF.031A	6368
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KNOBBE MARTENS OLSON & BEAR LLP			EXAMINER	
2040 MAIN STREET			LEE, CLOUD K	
FOURTEENTH FLOOR				
IRVINE, CA 92614				
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3753	
			NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			08/15/2007	ELECTRONIC

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

jcartee@kmob.com  
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<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/799,362	HARRINGTON ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Cloud K. Lee	3753	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 6/29/07.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 and 12-41 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 and 12-41 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                     | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114*

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 6/29/07 has been entered.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

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3. Claims 1-14, 25-27 and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DeVito (US Patent No. 5,947,148) in view of Ericksen et al (US Patent No. 6,337,635), Carrio (US Patent No. 4,690,181) and Manor (US Patent No. 3,910,497).

DeVito discloses a hose reel device (14) comprising a rotatable drum, an electrical motor connected to rotated the drum, electronic components in communication with the motor (18), a remote control comprising manual controls and wireless transmitter (23 and 27), wherein the electronic components further comprise an electronic logic unit (see abstract). DeVito fails to disclose a flow controller.

Ericksen et al disclose a flow controller comprising a wireless receiver (34) wherein the wireless receiver is integrated with the flow controller (see figure 1), wherein the electronic components include integrated circuit chips (see Col 3 lines 1-3), wherein the wireless receiver is a radio frequency (RF) receiver (see abstract), wherein the electronic components are configured to position the valve at plurality of positions between a open and closed position (see abstract). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have provided a flow controller in order to control the flow rate of the outdoor hose faucet (see Col 1 lines 8-13).

DeVito fails to disclose the remote control is configured to command the motor to both wind and unwind the hose about the drum.

Carrio discloses a remote control is configured to command the motor to both wind and unwind the hose about the drum (see Col 5 lines 35-41). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have provided a remote

control is configured to command the motor to both wind and unwind the hose about the drum in order to retract the hose to the wheel.

Ericksen et al disclose a housing containing the flow controller, but Ericksen et al fail to disclose a housing containing the hose reel device.

Manor discloses a housing (11) containing the hose reel device (see figure 2). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have provided a housing for both hose reel device and flow controller in order to protect the hose reel device and flow controller.

4. Claims 15, 18, 21, 28, 31-34 and 36-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DeVito (US Patent No. 5,947,148) in view of Ericksen et al (US Patent No. 6,337,635) and Rudrich (US Patent No. 5,651,384).

The modified DeVito fails to disclose a power saving system.

Ericksen et al disclose a remote control for controlling an electrically actuated valve. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have provided a flow controller.

Rudrich discloses a power savings system and its associated method comprising a wireless receiver (13) configured to receive wireless signals, the wireless receiver being capable of receiving the wireless signals only when the wireless receiver is in a powered state, a power control unit (2) configured to repeatedly switch the wireless receiver between powered and unpowered states in a cycle (see abstract), wherein the wireless receiver comprises a detection

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unit (12), a method of repeatedly switching a wireless receiver between powered and unpowered states in a cycle (see abstract), a flow controller comprising an inlet, an outlet, a fluid flow path defined between the inlet and outlet, an electrically actuated valve positioned to selectively close the fluid flow path (see Col 4 lines 12-18). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have provided provide a power saving system in order to reduce power usage as taught by Rudrick (see Col 2 lines 3-5).

Rudrich fails to explicitly disclose the wireless receiver in its powered state between about 2-20% or 3-10% of the time of the cycle. However, Rudrich recognizes that these dimension are results effective variables (see Col 2 lines 35-46), i.e. variables that achieve a recognized result. In the instant case, the time of the cycle is directly related to the amount of energy. Also, it is well known that the shorter of the time of the cycle requires less amount of energy. Since the prior art recognizes these as results-effective variables, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have chosen the time of the cycle, since it has been held that where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or workable ranges involves only routine skill in the art (see MPEP 2144.05).

5. Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DeVito (US Patent No. 5,947,148) in view of Ericksen et al (US Patent No. 6,337,635) and Rudrich (US Patent No. 5,651,384) as applied to claim 15 above, and further in view of Paese et al (US Patent No. 6,568,655).

The modified DeVito fails to disclose the power control unit comprises an operational amplifier.

Paese et al disclose the power control unit comprises an operational amplifier (340). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have provided an operational amplifier in order to provide a buffer with gain of about one for the power control unit as taught by Paese et al (see Col 11 lines 14-21).

6. Claims 22-23, 35 and 38-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ericksen et al in view of Lutz et al (US Patent No. 6,017,017), Carrio and Manor.

Ericksen et al fail to disclose a power control unit configured to reduce power consumption by applying an initial voltage to initiate movement of a valve and then reducing the voltage to the valve after the valve begins moving and before the valve is intended to stop.

Lutz et al disclose a power control unit configured to reduce power consumption by applying an initial voltage to initiate movement of a valve and then reducing the voltage to the valve after the valve begins moving and before the valve is intended to stop (see figure 3 and Col 2 lines 19-37). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have provided a power control unit configured to reduce power consumption by applying an initial voltage to initiate movement of a valve and then reducing the voltage to the valve after the valve begins moving and before the valve is intended to stop in order to detect armature drop off from a holding position and to take immediate corrective actions as taught by Lutz et al (see Col 2 lines 1-5).

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Carrio discloses a remote control is configured to command the motor to both wind and unwind the hose about the drum (see Col 5 lines 35-41). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have provided a remote control is configured to command the motor to both wind and unwind the hose about the drum in order to retract the hose to the wheel.

Manor discloses a housing (11) containing the hose reel device (see figure 2). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have provided a housing for both hose reel device and flow controller in order to protect the hose reel device and flow controller.

7. Claims 22, 24, 38 and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DeVito in view of Conner (US Patent No. 4,845,418), Carrio and Manor.

DeVito fails to disclose a power control unit configured to reduce power consumption by applying an initial voltage to initiate movement of a motor and then reducing the voltage to the valve after the valve begins moving and before the motor is intended to stop.

Conner discloses a power control unit configured to reduce power consumption by applying an initial voltage to initiate movement of a motor and then reducing the voltage to the valve after the valve begins moving and before the valve is intended to stop (see figure 3A). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have provided a power control unit configured to reduce power consumption by applying an initial voltage to initiate movement of a valve and then reducing the voltage to the



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valve after the valve begins moving and before the valve is intended to stop in order to improve flux profile for the motor as taught by Conner (see Col 4 lines 5-13).

Carrio discloses a remote control is configured to command the motor to both wind and unwind the hose about the drum (see Col 5 lines 35-41). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have provided a remote control is configured to command the motor to both wind and unwind the hose about the drum in order to retract the hose to the wheel.

Manor discloses a housing (11) containing the hose reel device (see figure 2). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have provided a housing for both hose reel device and flow controller in order to protect the hose reel device and flow controller.

### *Response to Arguments*

8. Applicant's arguments filed 6/29/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 14, 15, 18, 21-22, 25, 28, 31-34, 36 and 37 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

In response to applicant's argument that there is no reason or isn't an important factor or issue to provide or combine a remote control with Rudrich. The examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of

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ordinary skill in the art. Rudrich disclose a water faucet that is arranged so that to run water when user is near the actual device, however, it does not mean that there is not reason or isn't an important fact or use a remote control in order to control the flow of the water faucet.

### **Conclusion**

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cloud K. Lee whose telephone number is (571)272-7206. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gregory Huson can be reached on (571)272-4887. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

CL



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